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## PRODUCTION OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND PHARMACEUTICALS IMPROVES

Results of the pre-May Day socialist competition have been tabulated and show that total production exceeded planned quotas by 7.8 percent. Particular attempts were made to fulfill production quotas in as many categories of products as possible. Thus at all chemicopharmaceutical factories, 39 categoreis of vital equipment were produced (plans called for 41 categories), and medical instrument factories produced 32 categories out of 35. Laboratory glass factories, however, produced only five out of 13 vital categories of glass products.

Production of many important items during the first quarter of 1949 was much higher than for the same period in 1948. For example, there were 2.8 times more pyramidor, 3.4 times more aspirin, 6.9 times more rivanol, 3.9 times more glucose in ampules, 4.9 times more electrocardiographs, and 2.5 times more laboratory equipment. Most important, however, is the fact that the cost of all these items has dropped considerably.

Results of April production, as well as production for the first third of 1949, showed the production possibilities of various factories. But even with the good showing made by the majority of industries, much is to be desired. Several reasons are given for this latter situation. Director A. Petrov of the Solnechnogor Plant claims that "poor-quality glass" is responsible for his plant's inability to fulfill quotar for bottles for ether or flasks for penicillin culture. However, a commission organized to study the situation reported that the plant workers were not cognizant of an efficient operating schedule, and that it appeared to be the plant's policy to pay the workers regardless of the quality of their work.

Director Bogashovskiy reports that his plant was unable to fulfill quotas due to poor fuel supply. Director Kuptsov of the Ufa Factory reports several reasons for his nonfulfillment of quotas. It was determined, however, that he did not irdoctrinate his personnel properly prior to starting production on a new type of laboratory dish.

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The commission also reported that Director Polyakov of the "Krasnoye Znamya" Factory put more effort into training of personnel. The plant imeni Lenin (director, Lapshin) and the Sverclovek Plant (director, Veyland) have come nowhere near fulfilling their quotas. Much of their trouble can be traced to the fact that the Klin Glass Factory has still not started manufacturing the parts necessary for the production by the above two lants. Moreover, the Klin Plant which has made a very poor showing has been increasing its stockpiles beyond all reason. The Chemicopharmaceutical Wactories imeni Semashko at Chelyabinsk have not produced their quotas of glucose and potassium chloride in ampules.

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